



109



TAYLOR
BYRNE
BASRI
LUCAS

DAWN OF
DC



TB
23

NIGHTWING™

13+
TEEN

OLIVER QUEEN IS BACK,
AND THIS TIME HE'S THE **TARGET!**



© & TM DC

GREEN ARROW #7

WRITTEN BY

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

ART BY

**CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO
TREVOR HAIRSINE**



DECEMBER

**NOW A
MONTHLY
SERIES**

I LOVED
HER. SHE
LOVED ME.

NIGHTWING

THE CREW OF THE CROSSED Finale

TOM TAYLOR writer
STEPHEN BYRNE artist
ADRIANO LUCAS colors
WES ABBOTT letters

I BROKE HER HEART.
DELIBERATELY. AT
THE TIME, I TOLD
MYSELF IT WAS FOR
HER OWN GOOD.

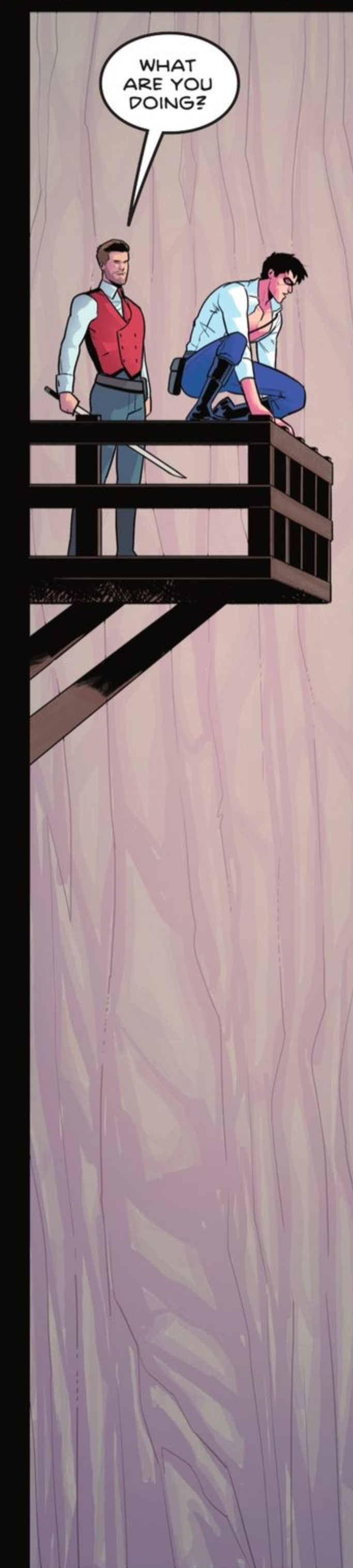
I THOUGHT MY
LIFE WAS TOO
DANGEROUS FOR
BEATRICE BLÜD.

I WAS
AN IDIOT.



YOU SEEM PRETTY USEFUL.

YOU WANT A JOB, CONSORT?



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



I CAN FEEL THE FEAR RISING IN ME AGAIN.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME.



YOU GONNA KILL YOURSELF? FOR *HER*?

SEEMS A LITTLE OVER THE TOP.



THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT AT THE CIRCUS WHEN I WAS A KID. I WAS AFRAID OF HEIGHTS FOR A LONG TIME AFTER. AND NOW I'M JUST AS SCARED.

BUT IF I DON'T JUMP, BEA DIES...



...AND THE
THOUGHT OF
THAT SCARES
ME MORE.



I HIT THE
WATER.



AND
I GO
DOWN...

...DOWN
INTO THE
DARK.

Then.



BATMAN?

NO.

MASTER
BRUCE ISN'T
IN CHARGE OF
YOUR TRAINING
TODAY.

TODAY,
YOU HAVE
ME, MASTER
RICHARD.



SURE.

UH,
ALFRED?



WHAT'S
WITH THE
PIG?





MASTER BRUCE HAS TRAINED YOU WELL IN COMBAT. BUT LIVES CAN'T ALWAYS BE SAVED WITH FISTICUFFS.

FISTICUFFS?

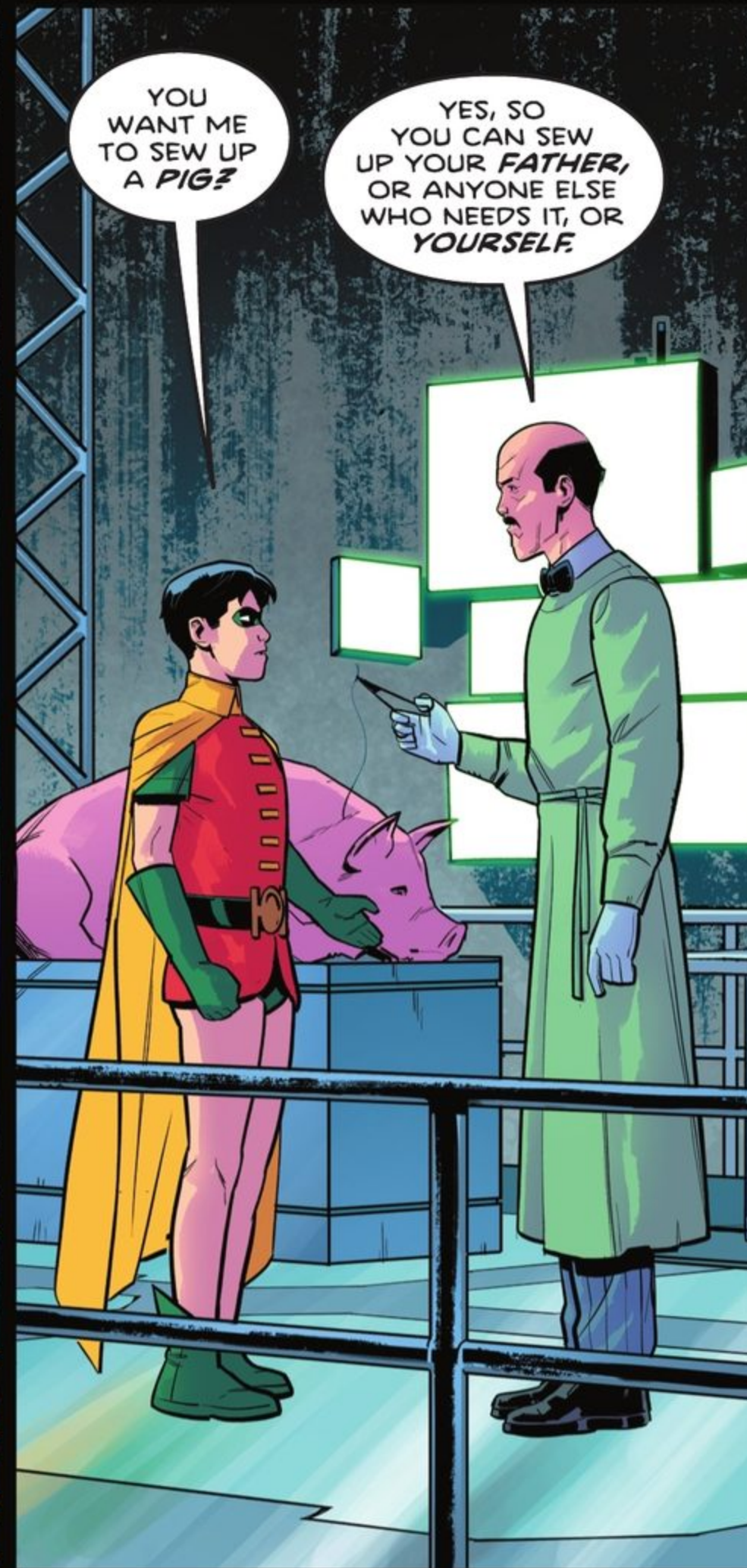
A WEAPON CAN *PROTECT*, BUT IT CANNOT *HEAL*.



I SPENT MANY YEARS AS A COMBAT MEDIC. I SAW A LOT OF CONFLICTS, AND A LOT OF PAIN.

YET YOU STILL USE THE WORD *FISTICUFFS*.

BLUNT FORCE DAMAGE. SLICED ARTERIES, FRACTURES, BREAKS, LACERATIONS.



YOU WANT ME TO SEW UP A *PIG*?

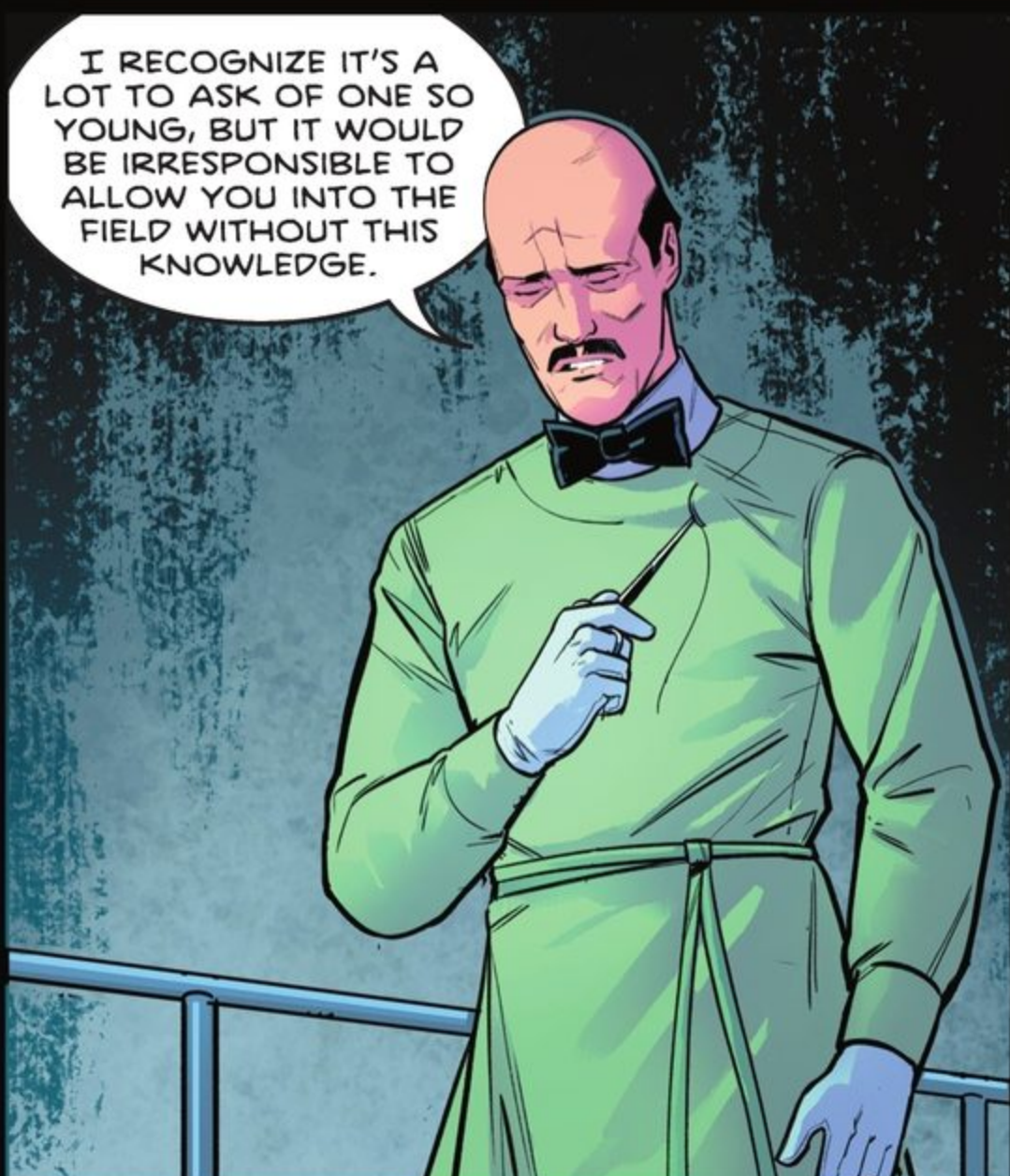
YES, SO YOU CAN SEW UP YOUR *FATHER*, OR ANYONE ELSE WHO NEEDS IT, OR *YOURSELF*.



BUT WE HAVE *YOU* FOR THAT.

AND IF I'M NOT HERE?

YOU'LL *ALWAYS* BE HERE, ALFRED.



I RECOGNIZE IT'S A LOT TO ASK OF ONE SO YOUNG, BUT IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE TO ALLOW YOU INTO THE FIELD WITHOUT THIS KNOWLEDGE.



IF YOU'D RATHER NOT...



GIVE ME THE NEEDLE.



RIC?

HEY.

I'M NOT DEAD.

NO. YOU WERE STABBED. BUT HE MISSED EVERYTHING YOU'D WANT HIM TO MISS.

DON'T TRY TO MOVE.

I FEEL FINE.

OF COURSE YOU DO. BATMAN ONCE HEADBUTTED A *NEW GOD* ON THESE EXACT SAME PAINKILLERS.

BUT SERIOUSLY. *DON'T MOVE.*



DIRK?

I'M SORRY. HE WAS BRAGGING OVER LOCAL RADIO. HE'S ANNOUNCED YOUR DEATH AND HIS OWN CAPTAINCY.

HE'S TAKEN YOUR SHIP AND IMPRISONED YOUR PEOPLE ON BOARD.

HE'LL BE GOING AFTER THE HOLD.

LIE BACK DOWN. SERIOUSLY. YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO--

IN THE LAST 48 HOURS, I HAVE LOST MY SHIP, MY CREW, MY COMMAND, MY FIRST MATE, AND MY FATHER.

I WILL **NOT** LOSE THE HOLD AS WELL.



IF DIRK TAKES CONTROL OF THE HOLD, HE WILL NOT HONOR THE OATHS OF THE CROSSED KEYS.

THERE ARE SECRETS THERE THAT COULD BRING DOWN **EMPIRES**.

IF HE KNOWS WHERE THE HOLD IS, I KNOW WHERE HE'LL BE GOING. IF I CAN FREE MY CREW, I CAN STOP HIM.

YOU SAVED MY LIFE. I RELEASE YOU FROM YOUR DEBT. WHEN I RECOVER THE HOLD, YOU WILL HAVE YOUR BOX.

HA!

WHAT?

I APPRECIATE THE BRAVADO, AND I'VE PATCHED YOU UP AS BEST I CAN, BUT YOU'RE MORE LIKELY TO PASS OUT FROM BLOOD LOSS THAN TAKE BACK YOUR SHIP **ALONE**.

I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO--

I'M NOT WALKING AWAY AGAIN, BEA.





"ALL
EXCEPT
ONE MAN.
**HENDRIK
BLÜD.**

"HE WENT OUT
AND SLAYED
THE BEAST.

"AND HE MADE THE
TOWN SAFE. HE
MADE IT A **HAVEN**.
HE PROTECTED IT.

"HIS PROTECTION DIDN'T END THERE.
HE WAS SEEN AS A HERO. PEOPLE
CAME FROM EVERYWHERE TO HAVE
THEIR MOST TREASURED ITEMS
GUARDED BY CAPTAIN BLÜD.

"HIS INFLUENCE AND
POWER GREW.



AND THIS HAS
BEEN CONTINUED BY
HIS DESCENDANTS.

AND
HOW DID **YOU**
BECOME ONE
OF THEM?



"I WAS HOMELESS. RUBEN BLÜD ADOPTED ME AFTER I...IMPRESSED HIM WHEN I STOLE A BOAT."

PREPARE TO BE BOARDED!



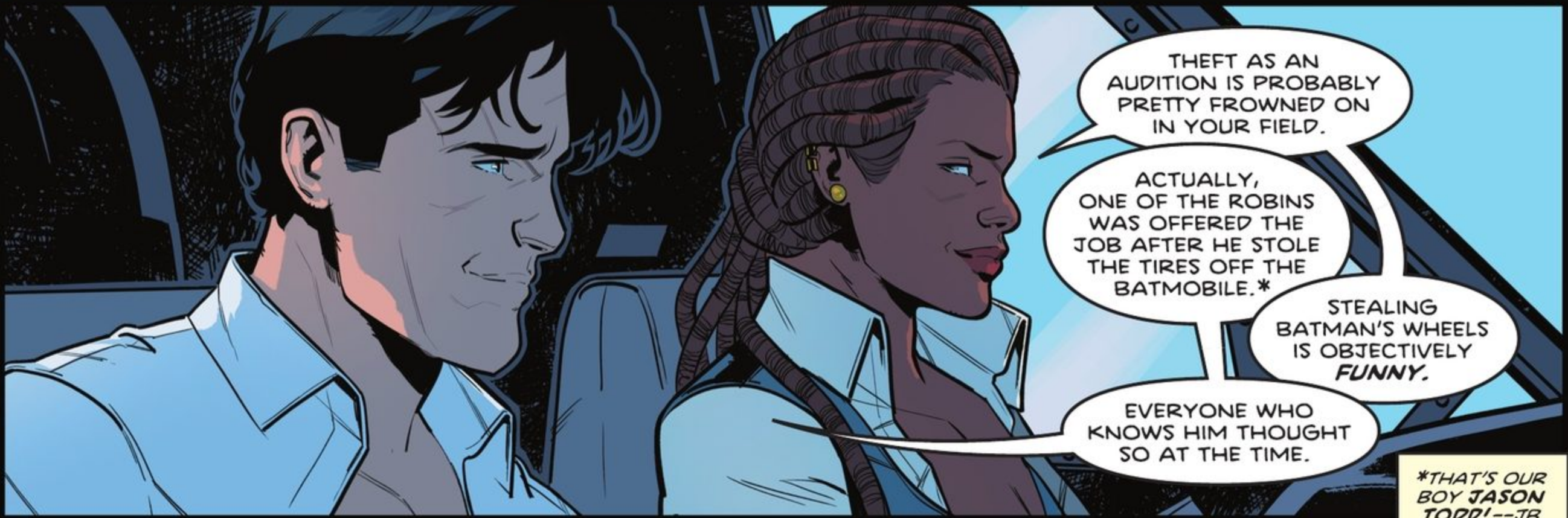
"IT WAS A SUPERYACHT. OWNED BY AN AMERICAN TYCOON."

"HOW OLD WERE YOU?"



"I WAS *THIRTEEN*. I GOT HALFWAY TO THE CARIBBEAN."

IMPRESSIVE.



THEFT AS AN AUDITION IS PROBABLY PRETTY FROWNED ON IN YOUR FIELD.

ACTUALLY, ONE OF THE ROBINS WAS OFFERED THE JOB AFTER HE STOLE THE TIRES OFF THE BATMOBILE.*

STEALING BATMAN'S WHEELS IS OBJECTIVELY *FUNNY*.

EVERYONE WHO KNOWS HIM THOUGHT SO AT THE TIME.

*THAT'S OUR BOY JASON TODD! --JB



YOU KNOW,
I KINDA
GET IT.

THE
PEOPLE WHO
WON'T ACCEPT
ME AS CAPTAIN
AFTER RUBEN
DIED.

DIRK
IS HIS
SON.



WHAT?

DIRK'S
NOT RUBEN'S
SON.

HE'S JUST
SOME VIOLENT
@#\$\$ WHO HAPPENS
TO BE RELATED
TO HIM.



I...KNOW THE DOUBTS. I
WENT THROUGH THIS WITH
THE TWO MEN WHO BECAME
MY FATHERS.

MOST OF IT
CAME DOWN TO
ME, NOT THEM. IT
WAS MY WORTH I
QUESTIONED.



YOU'RE THE ONE RUBEN
CHOSE. THE ONE STILL FIGHTING
HIS FIGHT. THE ONE HE LOVED.
YOU'RE HIS DAUGHTER,
BEATRICE BLÜD.

I GUESS HE DID
LEAVE ME AN ENTIRE
SECRET SOCIETY.

HE LEFT YOU
AN *ENTIRE SECRET
SOCIETY*.



WE'RE
HERE.

I'M
TAKING US
DOWN.

YOU
OKAY?



NO.

YEAH.
I'M FINE.

YOUR HANDS
ARE GRIPPING THE
SEAT PRETTY HARD
FOR *FINE*.



IT'S
OKAY...

"...WE'LL BE
OUT OF THE
SKY IN A
MOMENT."

OUT.
SLOWLY.
HANDS WHERE
WE CAN SEE
THEM.

QUARTERMASTER.

CAPTAIN
BLÜD!

WE
WERE TOLD
YOU--

THERE
HAS BEEN A
MUTINY, AMANDA.
WHOSE SIDE ARE
YOU ON?

WE ARE
ON YOUR SIDE.
**YOU ARE OUR
CAPTAIN.**

AND
DIRK IS A
@\$\$%.

DAMN STRAIGHT
HE IS.

HE'LL
BE HERE IN
A MATTER OF
HOURS.

"WE NEED TO
BE READY."

QUARTERMASTER.
DEFENDERS OF THE
HOLD.

YOUR
CAPTAIN IS
HERE.

THE *CAPTAIN OF
THE CROSSED KEYS* IS
BEATRICE BLÜD.

REALLY?
IT'S HARD FOR
BEATRICE TO BE
CAPTAIN WHEN
SHE WAS NEVER
A BLÜD.

BUT
I THINK THE
MAIN OBSTACLE
TO HER RULE WOULD
BE THAT SHE'S
DEAD.

STAND
ASIDE.

THE FEAR IS...DISTANT
NOW. IT'S STILL WITH
ME, BUT IT'S ONLY AT
THE EDGES. I CAN DO
WHAT I NEED TO DO.
I CAN BLOCK IT OUT...

...AND I
CAN LEAP.





I'VE CROSSED AN OCEAN TO RIGHT A WRONG AND STAND BESIDE SOMEONE I ONCE ABANDONED.

I HAVE SEEN PEOPLE HURT.

SEEN PEOPLE KILLED.

SEEN A WOMAN I ONCE LOVED ALMOST MURDERED IN FRONT OF ME.

ONE MAN CAN BE AN AMBUSH...

...WHEN HE'S THIS PISSED OFF.





...WHILE THE
CAPTAIN FREED
HER CREW BELOW
DECKS.

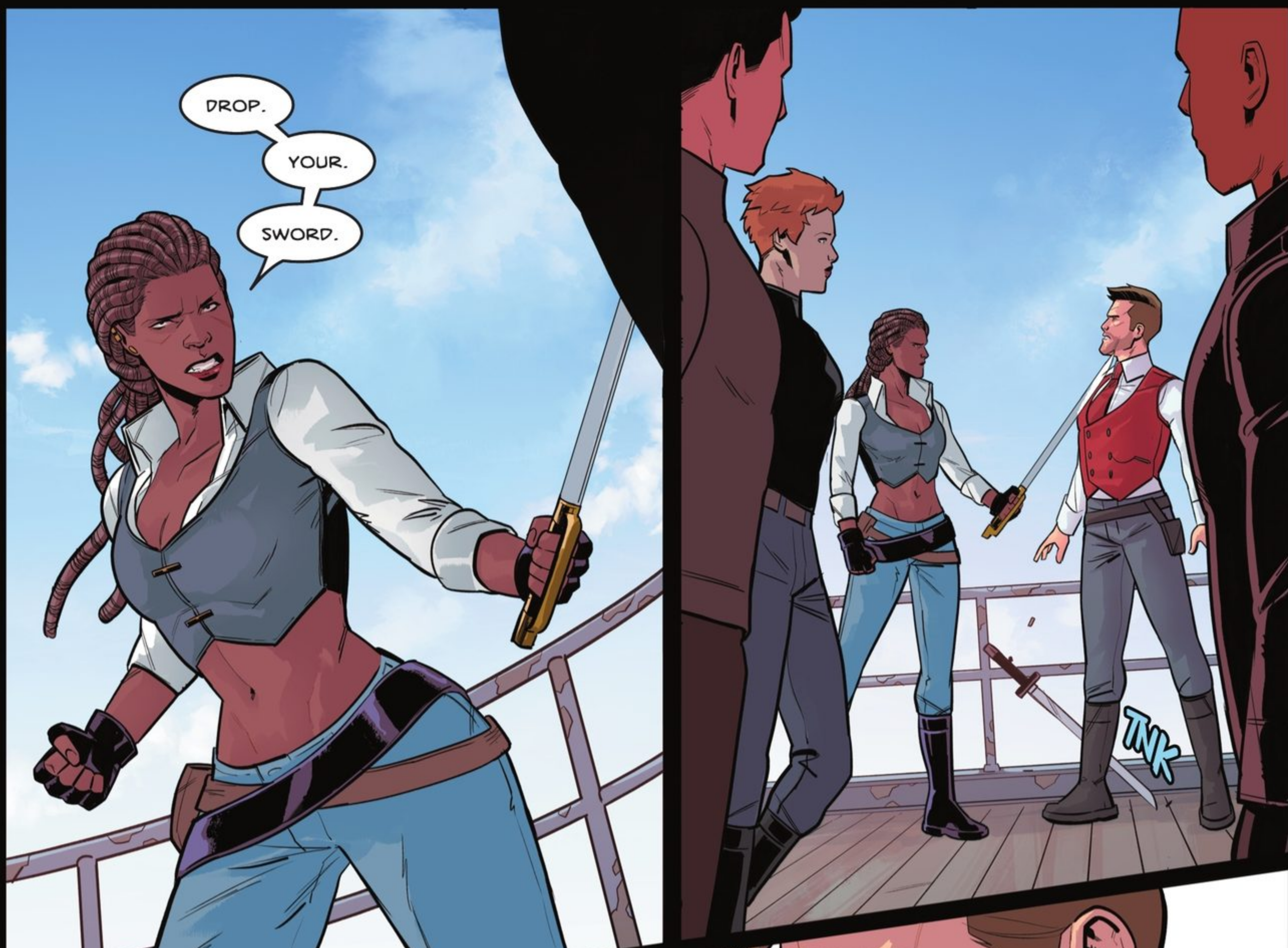


WEAPONS
DOWN. ALL
OF YOU.

DO
NOT!

DO NOT
SURRENDER TO
THIS ILLEGITIMATE
@#\$.%





Later.

LOCKER
537

LOCKER
538

Bill Slemmer

~~Nightwing~~

Jessica Chen

LOCKER
538.

YOUR BUSINESS
WITH THE CROSSED KEYS
IS CONCLUDED.

WHAT
ABOUT
DIRK?

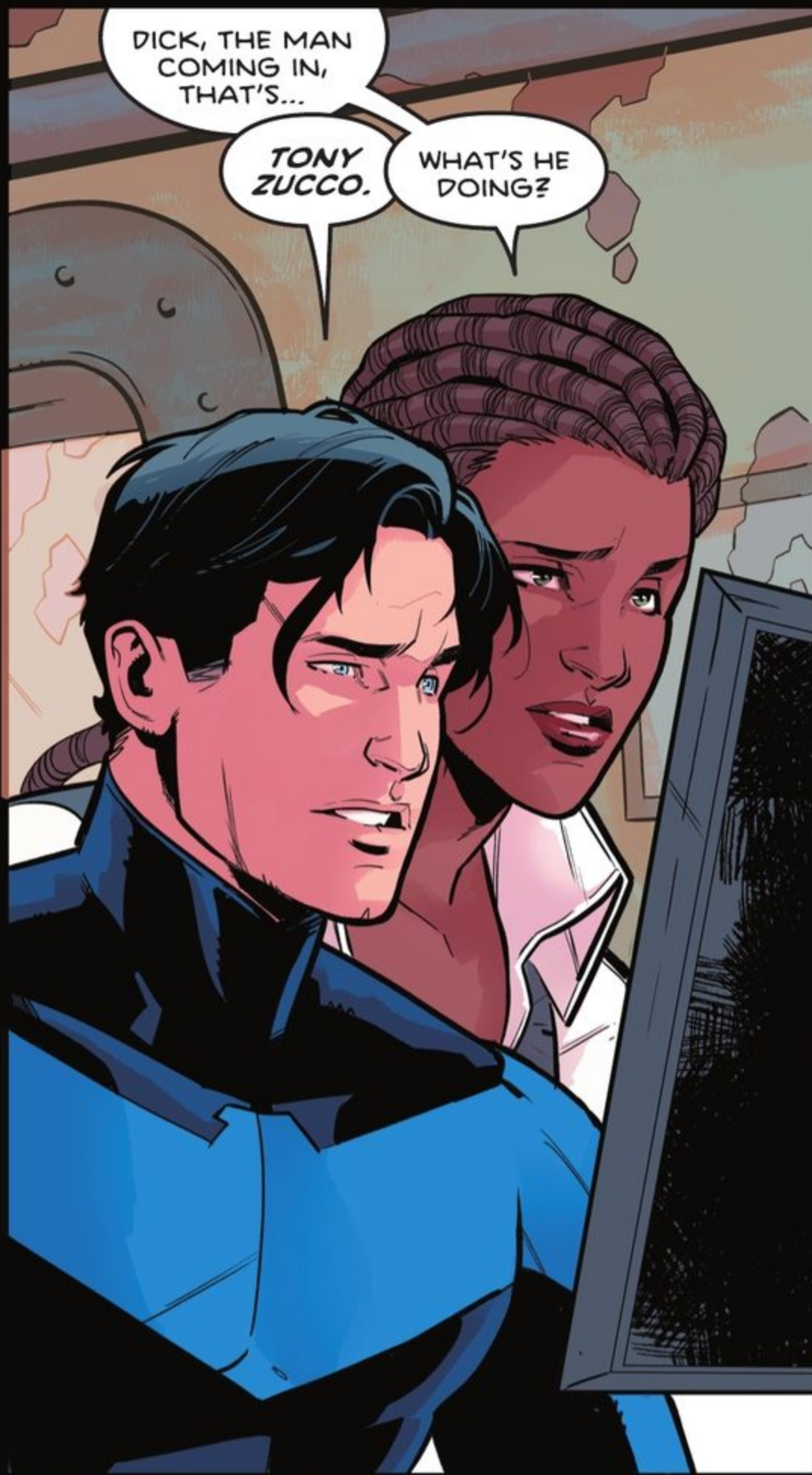
HE'S WANTED
FOR THE MOST CRIMES,
AND HIS WORST CRIMES,
IN NORWAY. SO WE'LL
START BY DEPOSITING
HIM THERE.

WHAT
IS IT?

A CD-
ROM?

DO
YOU HAVE
SOMEWHERE
PRIVATE I
CAN TAKE A
LOOK AT
THIS?





DICK, THE MAN COMING IN, THAT'S...

TONY ZUCCO.

WHAT'S HE DOING?



WHAT WE COULD NEVER PROVE HE DID UNTIL NOW.

HE'S SABOTAGING MY PARENTS' TRAPEZE.



I NEED TO GO HOME.

I NEED TO FIND ZUCCO.



THE CROSSED KEYS WILL BE LOOKING FOR HIM TOO. ALL OUR PEOPLE IN BLUDHAVEN WILL BE SEARCHING.

IF WE FIND ZUCCO OR HEARTLESS, YOU WILL KNOW.



I CAN'T GUARANTEE WE'LL HAND HEARTLESS OVER AFTER WHAT HE DID TO MY FATHER.

I UNDERSTAND.

BUT IF YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS FIND THEM BEFORE WE DO, MAKE THEM PAY.



I WILL.

NEXT: **BEAST WORLD!**

Gotham.

PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD
ARE BEING CHANGED INTO
ANIMAL-HUMAN HYBRIDS.

THAT'S NOT
BATMAN!

AND, AS IS TOO OFTEN
THE CASE, SOMETHING
HAS GONE WRONG IN
GOTHAM.

COMMISSIONER.
GET DOWN!

NO.

TNK

BANG





THE INFECTION ISN'T AS CONCENTRATED IN GOTHAM.

FATHER MONITORS THIS CITY TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT MANY WOULD BE TROUBLED BY IT.

I COUNTED THE SPORES DETECTED IN THE INITIAL WAVE.



JUST AS MANY SPORES HIT HERE AS IN BLÜDHAVEN, FOR INSTANCE. BUT WE HAVE FEWER BEASTS. WHY?

I THINK SOMETHING IS HAPPENING TO THEM.

I DON'T KNOW HOW. BUT THEY'RE PEOPLE AND I'M GOING TO FIND THEM.



THAT MEANS WORKING OUT WHERE BEASTS COULD BE CONTAINED.

DURING NO MAN'S LAND, THE GOTHAM ZOO WAS ABANDONED BY ITS OWNERS.

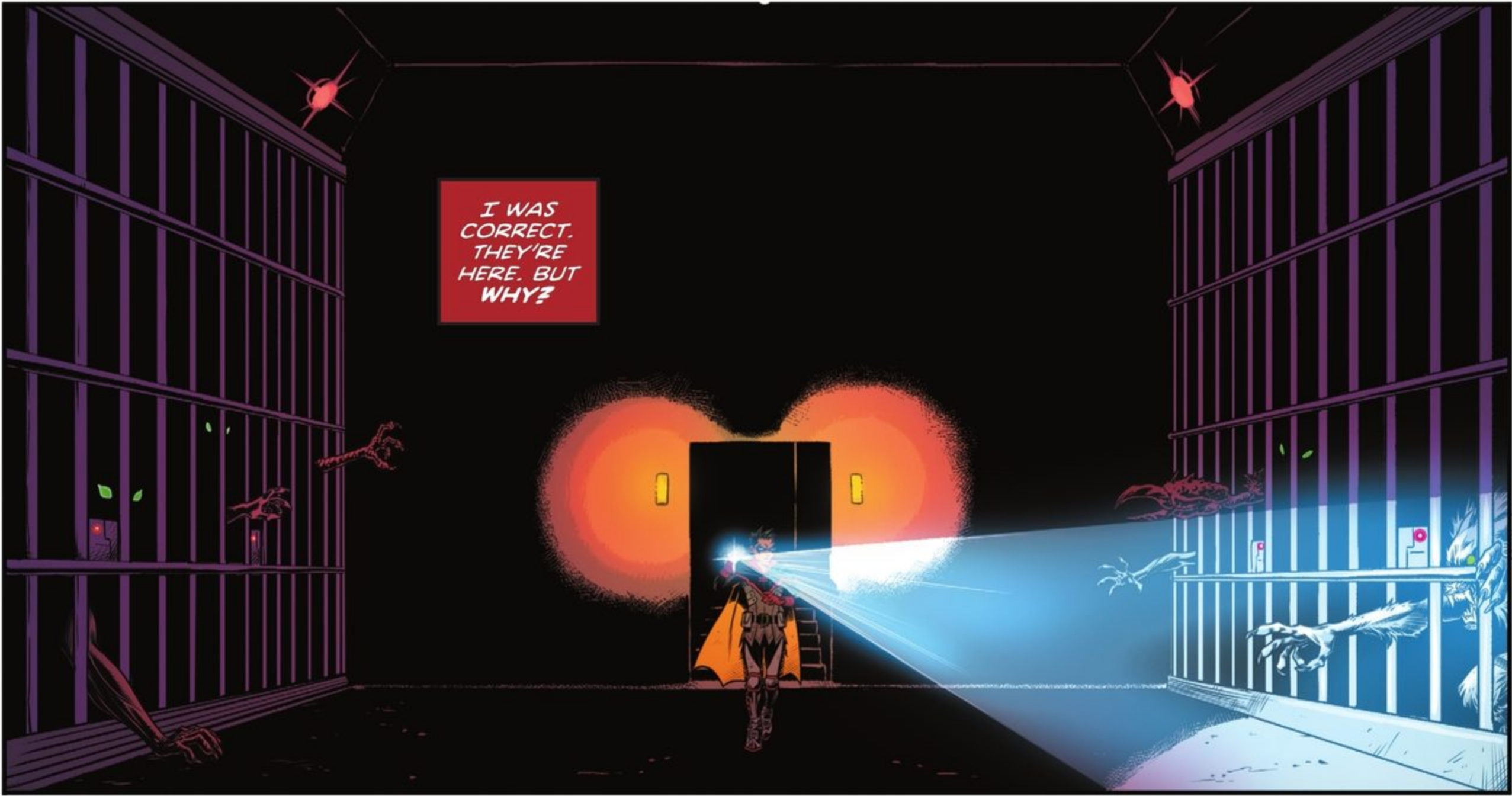


BUT A NUMBER OF THE STAFF STAYED BEHIND TO CARE FOR THE ANIMALS.



WHEN THE ZOO BECAME TOO DILAPIDATED, THE ANIMALS WERE MOVED...

...UNDERGROUND.









An orange cat-like superhero with a green mask and cape is shown in a dynamic pose, surrounded by large, dark animal paws. The character has a determined expression and is wearing a green mask with a white star. A speech bubble above the character says "MEOW.".

MEOW.

BEAST WORLD

PROLOGUE

TOM TAYLOR • writer
SAMI BASRI • artist
ADRIANO LUCAS • colorist
WES ABBOTT • letterer
JESSICA BERBEY • editor

PEACE ON EARTH, KRAMPUS IN GOTHAM

Batman-Santa Claus
Silent Knight

© & TM

Written by
**JEFF
PARKER**

Art by
**MICHELE
BANDINI**



4 ISSUES
DECEMBER



Main cover by **DAN MORA**

YAHYA ABDUL-MATEEN II BLACK MANTA IN

AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM



What has Black Manta been up to since fans last saw him in the original *Aquaman* film?

We last saw Black Manta being rescued by Dr. Shin, played by Randall Park, and since then they've been putting together a crew. Black Manta still has this mission of finding and destroying Aquaman. He still has the hate, the passion, and the rage, but he needs more help. So, he's got a whole army of new cats and he's traveling all over the globe in order to find more Atlantean technology because he has to rebuild his suit.

Can you talk about some of the vehicles Black Manta pilots in the film, specifically the Octobot?

Black Manta has some of the best gadgets and vehicles in the film. There's one he pilots called the Octobot, which has a design based on real aquatic sea life—specifically an octopus. It's this round tank that has levers to control it. It's all technology that's 3,000 years old, but Black Manta's repurposed it to fit the new world. It has this retro feel, whereas in Atlantis everything is new and shiny.

How does the Black Trident play into the story of the film?

The Black Trident is an ancient Atlantean relic. It comes from King Kordax, who's also the brother of King Atlan. There was a battle for the throne and Kordax felt like he was the rightful heir, and King Atlan would not cede it. So Kordax forged this evil trident through black magic. When Black Manta and his crew stumble upon this trident 3,000 years later, Black Manta grabs it and becomes possessed by the evil spirit of Kordax.

What has it been like teaming up with director James Wan again?

My guy, James! I used to describe James like a little kid on a playground. James is like an architect. He knows the world, he's very sharp and laser-focused on creating his vision. However, he's still having a good time! I think he's really found a world that lets him use his creativity to build. He's working on something even grander than what we can see.



IN THEATERS DECEMBER 22!

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